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DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING WINDOW GARDENS.

Procure a 3 or 4 inch pot for each lot of seed to be planted and some rich, sandy soil from the florist's or from the garden. Place over the hole in the bottom of the pot a small piece of broken crockery, the concave side down, and fill the pot to within one-fourth inch of the top with soil, gently pressing this down with the bottom of another pot so as to make the surface perfectly smooth and level, though not enough to make it hard. Large seeds like those of the nasturtium should simply be pressed into the soil about one-half inch deep and the soil drawn together over them with the thumb and finger. Those like the candytuft and snapdragon should be evenly spread over the surface and covered about one-eighth of an inch deep with fine soil carefully sprinkled over the surface so as to cover them evenly. The very small seeds should be thoroughly mixed with ten times their bulk of dry soil, and then the mixture scattered as evenly as possible over the surface in the pot. Cover the seed lightly, using not more than three or four times as much fine dry earth as was mixed with the seed; sprinkle it over the surface as evenly as possible. In all cases, after planting the seed the surface of the soil should be made smooth and even by pressing it down gently with the bottom of another pot; carefully avoid pressing it so heavily as to make the surface hard.

Set the pot in a dish containing water enough to come to within an inch of the top of the pot and let it stand from one-half minute to two minutes, or long enough so that the soil near the edge of the pot will be moistened, but not so that it will be wet. Cover the pot with a bit of clean glass and let it stand in a warm, light place about forty-eight hours; then lift the glass, place on the edge of the pot a burnt match, and replace the glass. About three days later substitute a lead pencil for the match, and after three days more remove the glass altogether. During this time, if the soil seems dry, immerse the pot up to within an inch of the top in tepid water until the soil near the edge of the pot is moist. The object of the glass is to prevent the soil from drying out; that of the match and pencil to hold up the glass to admit air to prevent the plants from becoming "drawn" or spindling from want of air and light. The time

when the changes should be made will be determined by conditions and can not be stated for all cases. They may not be needed as early as suggested, or it may be necessary to make them sooner. This can only be determined by the appearance of the plants. The match is not needed at all until the plants begin to come up, and the changes should be made so as to prevent the plants from becoming more than three to five times as high as wide.

When the plants are one-eighth to one-fourth of an inch high they should be thinned out so as to leave from 25 to 36 of the smallest growing plants, like lobelia, and 1 to 9 of the larger ones to the square inch, and after they have recovered from this it will be safe to water them by pouring water on the surface instead of dipping the pots in water. When the plants are from one-half to 1 inch tall they should be transferred to the pots in which they are to bloom; 6 or 7 inch pots are best for this purpose. One to three snapdragon, nasturtium, or petunia plants are sufficient for a pot of such a size, but from 5 to 20 candytuft, sweet alyssum, lobelia, ageratum, or mignonette plants can be used.

Many will prefer to use window boxes, and they may be very effectively filled with plants raised from the seeds of this collection. They should be not less than 4 nor more than 10 inches deep. Half-inch holes 6 inches apart should be bored in the front side, close to the bottom, or in the bottom itself, and there should be at least an inch of broken crocks placed in the box before the earth is put in. In our dry climate such boxes need a great deal of water, and except in continued dark or rainy weather this should be given every day.

If time is more abundant than money and it is necessary to use the least possible amount of cash, tin cans or wooden boxes can be used in place of pots. If cans are used, holes about half the size of a lead pencil and 2 inches apart should be punched around the can as close as possible to the bottom, and into the bottom of the can broken crocks with the concave side down should be placed to a depth of one-half to 1 inch before the soil is put in.

Soil can be secured from the nearest vacant lot that is not covered with coal ashes or rubbish. If a bit of this when placed in the mouth dissolves and melts away without leaving any grit or if when wet and rubbed in the hand it forms a slippery, sticky mud, it is too clayey and sand should be added. This can be procured from the vicinity of buildings where masons are at work. It will require one part of sand to from four to ten of soil; the more distinctly clayey the soil the greater should be the proportion of sand added.

The soil will need enriching, and for this purpose thoroughly rotted stable manure is best; but if this can not be obtained, some fresh manure can be secured from the streets, if need be, or from a cow or horse stable, but it is not well to use that which contains a great deal of sawdust, straw, or other coarse bedding.

Dry it thoroughly until it can be crumbled into powder easily; then crumble it up and thoroughly mix it with the soil at the rate of one part of manure to from two to six of soil. This fining of manure by drying and rubbing and the even mixing with the soil are very important. Some of the finest mignonette the writer has ever seen was grown in a gallon tin can in soil made as suggested above.

If boxes are used in place of the larger pots, they should have a series of one-half inch holes, from 3 to 5 inches apart, in the sides close to the bottom, and a layer of broken crocks at least an inch deep should be placed in the bottom before the soil is put in.

VARIETIES OF FLOWERING PLANTS FOR WINDOW GARDENS.

The following varieties of annual flowering plants are specially suitable for window gardens:



FIG. 1.—Ageratum.



FIG. 2.—Aster.

Ageratum.—A compact-growing, hardy plant, about 1 foot in height, and producing a constant succession of white, light blue, or purple flowers.

Aster.—Although these plants are more easily grown in the open ground than in pots or boxes and their season of bloom is short, we have seen fine specimens both in pots and in window boxes, and they are so well known and popular that they have been included in the collection.

Cacalia.—A slender, graceful plant, a persistent bloomer, growing about 16 inches high and bearing tassel-shaped, bright orange-colored flowers.

Calendula.—Rather coarse plants, growing from 10 to 14 inches tall and producing large yellow flowers, well known to many under the old-fashioned name of marigold.

Candytuft.—Hardy, easily grown plants, 6 to 16 inches high. The clusters of white or purple flowers are produced abundantly.



FIG. 3.—Calendula.



FIG. 4.—Candytuft.



FIG. 5.—California poppy.



FIG. 6.—Dianthus (Scotch or grass pink).

antly and through a long season. The plants flower freely when grown in pots and do well in window boxes.

California poppy.—The young plants of the California poppy (also known as *eschscholtzia*) have very long, narrow leaves and slender stems and are very sensitive to sun or even a slight

overwatering. They do best in bright sunshine. These plants are open trailers, 12 to 20 inches across, and are persistent though not abundant bloomers.

Chinese pink.—The young plants of the Chinese pink are weak, but when once established are quite hardy. These plants grow about 10 inches high and are very persistent bloomers, and the flowers are of very brilliant color.

Dianthus.—A brilliant-colored garden pink. While not easily grown in pots or window boxes it is so brilliant and attractive as to warrant the effort.

Helichrysum (Eternal flower).—These plants sometimes grow fairly well in boxes, and when they do, the persistence and brilliant coloring of the flowers make them a valuable addition.

Lobelia.—The lobelia is a slender-stemmed, delicately graceful plant, bearing small, beautiful blue flowers, and is one of



FIG. 7.—Lobelia.



FIG. 8.—Mignonette.

the most desirable plants for window boxes because of its graceful habit of growth and constant bloom. The very small young plants are weak and liable to be killed by overwatering or by too bright sun, but when once established the plants are very abundant and persistent bloomers.

Mignonette.—One of the most fragrant of our common flowers and one that does well either in pots or in window boxes.

Nasturtium.—An excellent plant for window boxes, where it often does better than in the garden. Its graceful habit of growth and brilliant-colored, large flowers are very effective. The young plants are much smaller than one would expect from the size of the seed. No manure should be added to the soil for nasturtiums.

Pansy.—The seeds of the pansy germinate freely but the young plants are of slow and weak growth, very liable to injury from shade or too much sun or heat. When once established, however, they are very persistent bloomers. They do best with a northern exposure. Height 4 to 8 inches.

Petunia.—This plant produces a succession of bright-colored, broad, trumpet-shaped flowers, which give brilliancy to any collection. It makes a good pot plant and is a most desirable one for window boxes. The young plants are small and of slow growth, very liable to injury from overcrowding or overwatering.



FIG. 9.—Nasturtium.



FIG. 10.—Pansy.

Poppy.—The very small and weak young plants are very liable to be killed by crowding or even a slight overwatering, but when once established they are quite hardy. They thrive best in full sunlight. The plants do not remain in flower long. Height 10 to 20 inches.

Snapdragon.—This plant is rather slow to come into bloom, but it is attractive while growing and makes a good background for the other plants of the collection, and when at last it comes into flower it is very brilliant and showy.

Sweet alyssum.—A low-growing, spreading plant, with small, white, very sweet scented flowers, which are produced in abundance. It might be called a miniature white candytuft. The plant grows well in the house and comes quickly into bloom.



FIG. 11.—Petunia.



FIG. 12.—Poppy.



FIG. 13.—Snapdragon.



FIG. 14 — Sweet alyssum.

Verbena.—An inexperienced person might think that the seeds of the verbena were simply broken bits of small stems. They

are very slow to germinate, and the plants are of slow growth at first, but when once established grow very rapidly and are very abundant and persistent bloomers. The verbena is a trailer, a full-grown plant covering 2 to 6 square feet.



FIG. 15.—Verbena.

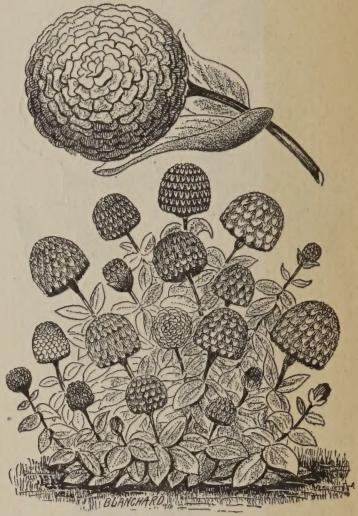


FIG. 16.—Zinnia.

Zinnia.—A strong, rather coarse growing plant, but very hardy and a persistent bloomer. The seeds are slow to germinate and the young plants should be given plenty of room to develop. Height 10 to 24 inches.

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